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zoom

in on america

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New York, New York ...

New York City, in the state of New York, is located on the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the Hudson River. The city is made up of five boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx and Staten Island. Two of these (Manhattan and Staten Island) are surrounded by water.

New York City is the largest metropolis in the United States. The first settlers were the Dutch, who established New Amsterdam on the island of Manhattan in 1625. After the English took over in the 1660s, the colony was renamed New York, after the Duke of York.

New York is a one-of-a-kind city. In his song, Frank Sinatra sang, "If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere. New York, New York."

In NYC even the streets are symbolic:

Madison Avenue—for advertising; Wall Street — for finance; Broadway — for theater; Seventh Avenue — for fashion; and Fifth Avenue — for luxury goods. It is a city "that never sleeps," where buses and subways operate 24 hours a day, and where you can dine any time during the day or night.

Unlike European capitals, New York is a city of immigrants, and with its diverse population it is sometimes referred to as a "melting pot." With all its diversity, however, NYC manages to accommodate all the cultural differences and is famous for its tolerant atmosphere. Although Manhattan is the smallest of the five boroughs, it remains the financial and cultural heart of the city.



Manhattan is known for its predictable layout: one-way streets go east-west, and north-south avenues cross the streets at right angles, so the map of Manhattan looks like a grid. Avenues in Manhattan are numbered from First to Twelfth, from the East River to the Hudson River with Lexington between the Third and Park (at one time called Fourth) and Madison between Park and Fifth. Streets are numbered from 1st to 220th; they are also named East and West, with the exception of Broadway. Locations north of 14th Street are generally considered Uptown and anything located below 14th Street is considered Downtown.

Why is NYC called the Big Apple?

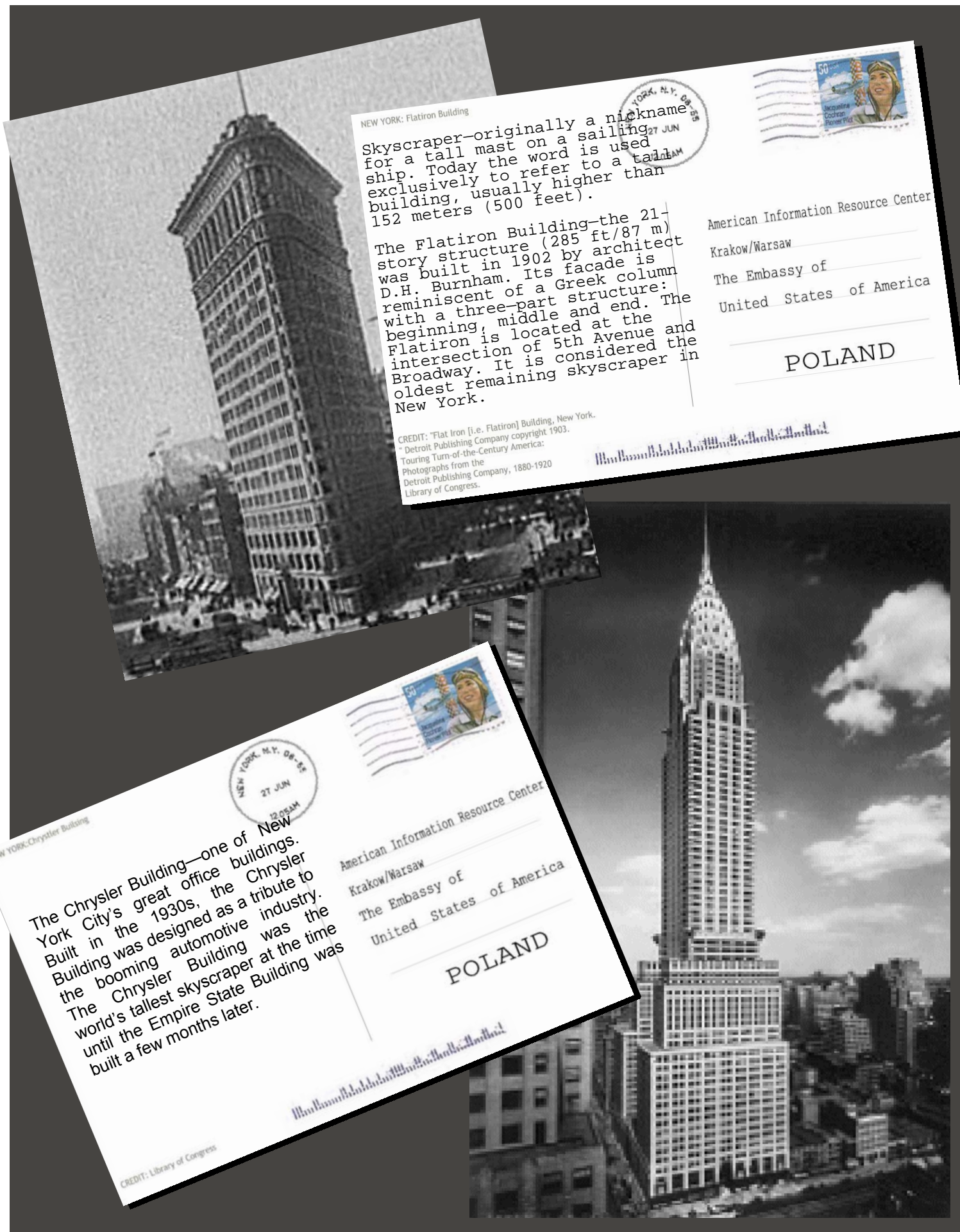
The term was first popularized in the 1920s by John J. Fitzgerald, a reporter for the *Morning Telegraph* who used the term to refer to the city's racetracks; he had heard it used by black stable hands in New Orleans in 1921. Black jazz musicians in the 1930s used the name for the city.

(Gerald Leonard Cohen: Origin of New York City's Nickname "The Big Apple." Encyclopedia of New York City p. 107)

The Statue of Liberty.

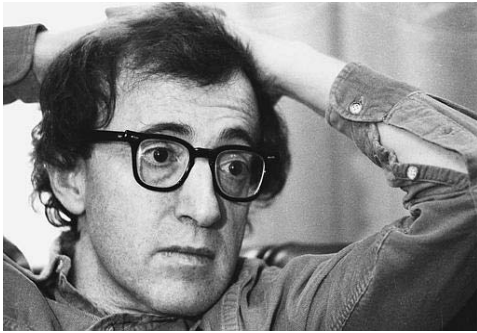
Designed in France by sculptor Auguste Bartholdi, the structural engineer was Gustave Eiffel. The Statue was presented to America on July 4, 1884 by the people of France to commemorate liberty and friendship between the

■ New York City: Skyscrapers



■ New York City: In film, music, art and sports

AT THE MOVIES



Actor-director Woody Allen is photographed during an interview in New York City on April 8, 1977.

Woody Allen

Woody Allen (Allan Konigsberg) was born in New York City. He grew up here and devoted all his life to the city. NYC is not only where most of his films take place but throughout the years, New York became one of the main characters in Allen's movies. If you'd like to find out how many of Woody Allen's movies were shot in NYC, please visit the website: <http://torp.priv.no/woody/>.

Two other movie directors very closely related to New York City are: Martin Scorsese (www.scorsesefilms.com/), and Spike Lee (www.imdb.com/name/nm0000490/).

■ SPORTS

"There probably are countries where the people are as crazy about sports as they are in America, but I doubt that there is any place where the meaning and design of the country is so evident in its games. In many odd ways, America is its sports." (*Electronic Journal Sports in America*)

Just like the rest of the country, New York City is very sports-minded. It is the home of the baseball teams New York Yankees

(<http://newyork.yankees.mlb.com>)

and New York Mets (<http://newyork.mets.mlb.com>);

the Giants football team (www.giants.com/);

and the Knicks basketball team (www.nba.com/knicks).



The logos of New York sport clubs. (AP Photos).

■ MUSIC

So why does New York's music scene matter? Because it is the most vital and diverse patchwork of classical, opera, jazz, hip-hop, blues, acoustic, cabaret, traditional, experimental, electro, ethnic, R&B, neo-garage, art-rock, drum-n-bass, funk, dub, reggae, ambient, club, post-punk and you-name-it, made and performed in hundreds of places from Carnegie Hall to the basements of Soho and on the very streets of the City.



Cellist Yo-Yo Ma, left, and pianist Emanuel Ax perform music by Beethoven a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York Sunday May 5, 1996. The concert celebrates the 105th anniversary of Carnegie Hall, which opened May 5, 1891.



Jazz trumpeter Roy Campbell performs a solo during a tribute in honor of Duke Ellington's 100th birthday celebration at the 125th Street subway station in Harlem, New York, Thursday April 29, 1999.

■ ARTS



The New New Yorkers and their Friends festival will be held in Warsaw **June 25 - July 4, 2004.**

The New New Yorkers Festival will showcase the contributions of Polish émigrés to American culture. Polish, Polish-American and non-Polish artists who have collaborated with or have been influenced by their Polish counterparts in the creative ferment of New York City will be featured. The festival will showcase a full range of cultural events: music, dance, film, theater, literature and the visual arts — all staged at cultural venues throughout Warsaw.

"I think the most exciting thing about the festival is introducing to Poles an aspect of their culture that most of them didn't even know about," according to the Embassy's Public Affairs Counselor and Event Organizer Andrew Koss.

To read more about New New Yorkers festival go to: www.newnewyorkers.pl

Activity Page

Win! Win! Win!

To take part in a drawing of a New New Yorkers Surprise Package, check out our website:

www.usinfo.pl/zoom/
and find the answer to the following question:

Who were the first settlers in New York and what was the city's original name before it became New York City?

Send your answer to:
zoom@usinfo.pl

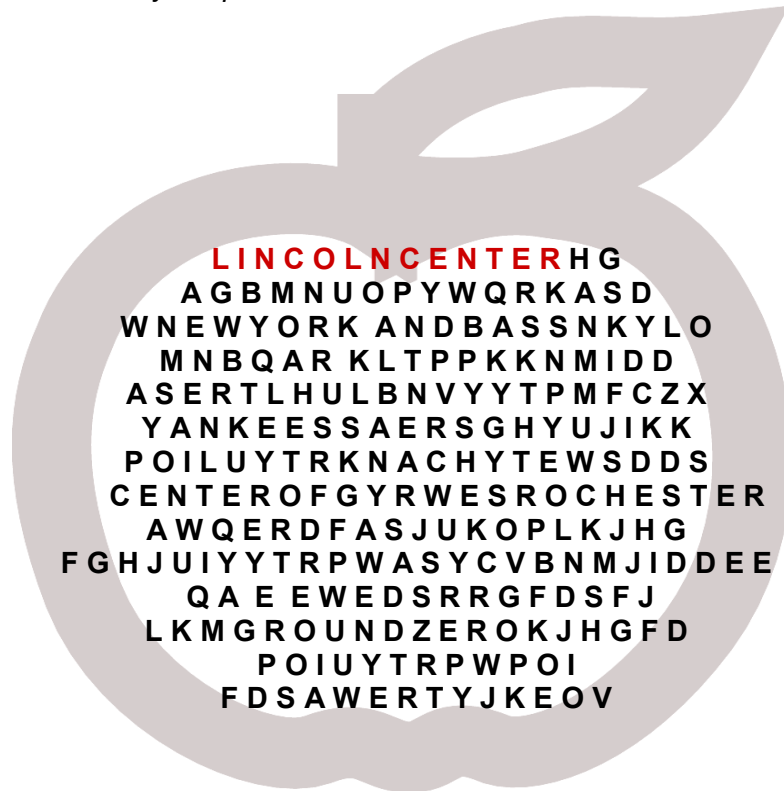
Give your name, address, and age. The deadline is June 30.

Good Luck!

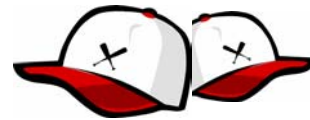
The winners from the previous issue will soon receive their prizes by mail.

■ Can You Find the Hidden Words?

Words contained in the puzzle run up, down, horizontally and diagonally. Can you find these words: New York, Rochester, Ground Zero, Albany, Lincoln Center, Knicks, Yankees and Skyscraper?



■ Thinking Caps On!



Unscramble the word to name some sights found in New York State.

1. TASTUE FO BERLITY _____
2. BLANAY _____
3. PMEIRE TASTE _____
4. MITES QUSARE _____
5. NAYKEE DATSIUM _____

■ Match It Up!



New York City
Madison Square Garden
Albany
Shea Stadium

Home of the New York Knicks
Capital of New York State
Home of the New York Mets
Largest city in the United States

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